

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 13279 311210Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-14 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SP-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SWF-02

OMB-01 AEC-11 DODE-00 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INT-08 L-03

NSC-07 PM-07 SAM-01 SCI-06 SS-20 STR-08 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 /266 W

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R 311141Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9554

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT ALGIERS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 13279

E.O. 11652 : DGS

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: OIL PRODUCER-CONSUMER MEETING

REF: OECD 12696

1. FRENCH ARE AWARE OF SAUDI PROPOSAL FOR RESTRICTED MEETING OF OIL PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS (REFTEL), AND HAVE APPARENTLY DISCUSSED PROPOSAL WITH SAUDIS IN NEW YORK. IN MENTIONING SAUDI PROPOSAL TO US SOME TWO WEEKS AGO, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS GAVE IMPRESSION THAT THEY PROBABLY EXPECT TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY SUCH MEETING. THEY MAY, OF COURSE, EXPECT TO DO SO AS REPRESENTATIVES OF EC - THEY ASSUME PRESIDENCY JULY 1 - BUT IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THEY MAY HOPE TO DO SO ON THEIR OWN AS MAJOR IMPORTING COUNTRY.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 13279 311210Z

2. WHILE WE ARE UNAWARE OF SPECIFICS OF YAMANI'S PROPOSAL, OR IN WHOSE HANDS INITIATIVE LIES FOR ORGANIZATION OF SUCH MEETING, WE BELIEVE THAT POSSIBILITY OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION MUST BE CONSIDERED. IF MEETING WERE TO BE TIGHTLY RESTRICTED IN NUMBER, FRENCH WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY EMERGE AS EC REPRESENTATIVE AS A RESULT OF THEIR IMPENDING PRESIDENCY; EVEN IF SEVERAL EC MEMBERS ATTEND, FRENCH WOULD PROBABLY PLAY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN FORMING EC MANDATE. WITH IMPORTANT FRENCH ROLE IN ANY SUCH MEETING THUS A VIRTUAL CERTAINTY, IT APPEARS IMPORTANT TO US THAT USG NOT BE SEEN AS SEEKING TO LIMIT PARTICIPATION TO ECG MEMBERS OR OTHERWISE EXCLUDE FRANCE.

3. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT FRENCH MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT PARTNERS IN SUCH A NEGOTIATION, GISCARD HAS HAD IMPORTANT DISAGREEMENTS WITH RECENT GOF ENERGY POLICY AND WE BELIEVE THAT OVER TIME SOME FAVORABLE EVOLUTION CAN BE EXPECTED IN FRENCH POSITIONS. WE ASSUME MOREOVER THAT ONE USG OBJECTIVE IS TO ASSOCIATE GOF, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, WITH COOPERATIVE ENERGY MEASURES AND WE EXPECT THAT NEW GOF TEAM WILL BE MORE RECEPTIVE TO US VIEWS IN THIS REGARD. WE RECOMMEND THEREFORE THAT USG AVOID ANY APPEARANCE OF SELECTING SPECIFIC NEGOTIATING PARTNERS FROM AMONG EC MEMBERS, LIMITING NEGOTIATING GROUP TO ECG PARTICIPANTS, OR OTHERWISE SEEKING TO EXCLUDE FRANCE FROM EVENTUAL NEGOTIATIONS.

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